

CLAIMS

1. A cleaning device, comprising a cleaning element having an axis, an axial inner region and an axial outer region and being formed so that at least said axially outer region is bendable to follow a shape of a surface to be cleaned when pressed against the surface; a holding element which is substantially more rigid than said cleaning element so as to hold said cleaning element; and a connecting element which releasably connects said cleaning element to said holding element so that after use of said cleaning element said cleaning element can be disconnected from said holding element and removed, to install in the cleaning device a new cleaning element or to clean a used cleaning element and to install it in the cleaning device again.

2. A cleaning device as defined in claim 1, wherein said holding element is formed so as to hold said cleaning element substantially in said axially inner region.

3. A cleaning device as defined in claim 1, wherein said holding element has a central portion provided with a throughgoing opening for supplying a liquid therethrough and a peripheral portion formed to support said cleaning element in said axially inner region.

4. A cleaning device as defined in claim 1, wherein said connecting element is engageable with said holding element so as to hold said connecting element and said holding element together in an assembled condition of the cleaning device.

5. A cleaning device as defined in claim 4, wherein said connecting element has a peripheral rim which engages over a peripheral edge of said holding element with a snap action.

6. A cleaning device as defined in claim 1, wherein said holding element and said connecting element have projection means provided on one of said holding elements and said connecting element, and opening means provided on the other of said holding element and connecting element and in which said projection means is engageable.

7. A cleaning device as defined in claim 6, wherein said opening means include a plurality of openings provided on said other element, while said engaging means include a plurality of projections provided in said one element and engaging in said openings.

8. A cleaning device as defined in claim 7, wherein said cleaning element is provided with a plurality of openings through which said projections extend.

9. A cleaning device as defined in claim 7, wherein said elements have a central axis, said projections and said openings being distributed circumferentially around said central axis at angular distances from one another.

10. A cleaning device as defined in claim 1, wherein said cleaning element has an additional portion extending from said axially inner region and bent from said axially inner region to extend in a substantially opposite direction, said additional portion being located between said holding element and said connecting element.

11. A cleaning device as defined in claim 10, wherein said additional portion of said cleaning element is provided with slot means allowing bending of said additional portion.

12. A cleaning device as defined in claim 11, wherein said slots means include a plurality of slots extending in a direction from an axis of the cleaning device substantially radially outwardly.